

# The Urban District of Kirkham



## Annual Health Report for the Year 1961

Medical Officer of Health :

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Edin.).

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor O. Aiken (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson

Councillor T. Ward, J.P.

Councillor R. Lavelle

Councillor J. Whiteside

Councillor Mrs. O. Mayers

Councillor G. Green

Councillor H. Jones

Councillor J. Whiteside (Woodlands)

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk: N. Swift, A.C.C.S.

Pupil Public Health Inspector: B. D. Rogerson  
(1-1-61 — 27-9-61)

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# Annual Health Report

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1961

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To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham  
Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1961.

The year was one of steady routine work in the department, nothing in any way outstanding having occurred.

Both birth and death rates were slightly up on 1960. Infant deaths under one year were 4 as against none in 1960 and 5 in 1959. Half of these deaths were due to congenital abnormalities of the baby. Unfortunately we have to record the death of one mother in childbirth, an occurrence now, mercifully, comparatively rare.

Infectious disease notified was rather higher than the preceding year but this was almost entirely due to 61 cases of measles having occurred. Measles tend to run in cycles of alternate years and 1961 was one of the years when it was more widespread.

Staff in the department is the same except that we have now no pupil Health Inspector. Mr. Rogerson passed his finals and obtained a post as a Public Health Inspector. He has been missed. To all the staff I extend my thanks for the work of the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest.

Yours faithfully,

C. ROBERTSON WILSON.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) .....	940
Home Population .....	5,000
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The home population in 1960 was 4,670)	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/61 .....	1,503
Rateable value at 31/12/61 .....	£53,844
Amount produced by a penny rate .....	£223



## VITAL STATISTICS

Births—80 live births (38 males and 42 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 12.6 per 1,000 in 1960. Illegitimate live births totalled 6.25% of total live births.

Stillbirths—There was 1 stillbirth during the year making a stillbirth rate of 12.3 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 48.4 in 1960.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 81.

Deaths—59 deaths (32 males and 27 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 12.9 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 10.0 per 1,000 in 1960.

Infantile Mortality—4 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 0 in 1960.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was 37.5.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was 25.0.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Number of deaths 1. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was 12.35.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1961.

Cause of death	M	F	T
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	1	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	3	4	7
Coronary disease, angina .....	9	1	10
Other heart disease .....	—	6	6
Other circulatory disease .....	1	2	3
Pneumonia .....	2	3	5
Bronchitis .....	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	1	1
Congenital malformations .....	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	4	4	8
All other accidents .....	—	1	1
	32	27	59

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

Year	England and Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1957 .....	16.1	11.5	18.0	14.0
1958 .....	16.4	11.7	12.8	12.9
1959 .....	16.5	11.6	13.6	13.3
1960 .....	17.1	11.5	12.6	10.0
1961 .....	17.4	12.0	14.7	12.9

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:—

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Hospital Facilities—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities—The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles from the Wesham Ambulance Station.

Laboratory Facilities—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:

Monday, a.m.—Minor Ailments Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Monday a.m. and p.m.—Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m.—Audiometric (alternate Tuesdays).

Wednesday, p.m.—Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Thursday, a.m.—Immunisation (third Thursday in each month).

Thursday, a.m.—Minor Ailments.

Thursday, a.m.—Vaccination (third Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m.—Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m.—Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.



# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the numbers of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1961.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified													
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year												
		1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths	
Scarlet Fever .....														
Whooping Cough .....	2		1		1									
Acute Poliomyelitis — Paralytic .....														
„ Non-Paralytic ...														
Measles (excluding Rubella)	61	4	10	7	6	33	1							
Diphtheria .....														
Dysentery .....	8	1		1		2	2	1	1					
Meningococcal Infection ...														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...														
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl'zal) ...														5
Smallpox .....														
Acute Encephalitis—Infec- tive .....														
„ Post-Infectious														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...														
Paratyphoid Fevers .....														
Erysipelas .....														
Food Poisoning .....	1	1												
Puerperal Pyrexia .....														
Other notifiable diseases ...														
TOTAL .....	72	1	5	11	8	7	35	3	1	1	0	0	0	5



# TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality during 1961.

		——New Cases——				——Deaths——			
		Non Pulmon'y		Non Pulmon'y		Non Pulmon'y		Non Pulmon'y	
Age Periods		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2		0		0		0	

In 1960 there was 1 new case notified, and 0 deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health  
Committee, Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my third annual report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1961.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The following are the numbers of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc.

Water Closets .....	1,650
Waste Water Closets .....	1
Pail Closets .....	1
Privy Closets .....	0
Privy Ashpits .....	0
Dry Ashpits .....	0
Dustbins .....	1,700
Cesspools .....	0
Septic Tanks .....	15
Houses not connected directly to sewer .....	33
Houses on Water Carriage System .....	1,503
Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System	99.99
Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System .....	97.80

Sewers and Sewerage System—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs into tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewerage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Thirty-nine new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams—One main stream—Wrongway Brook—runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally into Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town, and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert, and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. No complaints were received concerning the water supply.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Complaints Received—221 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council houses for repairs requiring attention. 897 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 221 nuisances were discovered, of which 215 were abated, leaving 6 to carry forward to 1962. 207 informal notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was 8. In the main, most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. Advantage is being taken to improve old property under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959.

## DISINFESTATIONS

No houses were disinfested during 1961. The methods of treatment would be by D.D.T. spray and/or D.D.T. or similar type of smoke generator. In the case of bugs a combination of the two methods—spraying first, followed by smoke generators—has proved most effective. Free issues of insect power are available, and no charge is made for disinfestation in the area of private dwelling houses.

## DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Nine houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases, and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfection of premises. There was no other demand for disinfection. Library books were collected from houses where infectious disease occurred and were disinfected before return to the Library.

## SCHOOLS

The schools were inspected on occasion and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the sewer.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades within the district.



## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There were two caravan sites licenced during 1961, for permanent, residential use and it is estimated that some twenty caravans were permanently occupied by 40-50 residents. Some of the conditions attached to the site licences have not been fully complied with and this was receiving attention from the Committee.

## CLEAN AIR ACT

The factories in the district were visited and consultations made with the boilermen in an attempt to improve the smoke nuisance. Few complaints were received and no observations were taken on chimneys. No legal actions were taken.

## OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

During the year no further applications from persons to be registered as Dealers in Old Metals under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were received.

Certificates for means of escape in case of fire are now given by Lancashire County Council Fire Department.

## HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. They have one fore and aft tipper type wagon engaged regularly on this work. A tractor and trailer is used part time on the tip.

Disposal is carried out at Carr Lane tip. The soil is first removed by dragline and then replaced on top as the tip proceeds. Some 2 acres of reclaimed land are let to a farmer and several successful crops have been grown. The old destructor was retained in use for burning unsound meat, unsalvageable paper and factory wastes.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:—

- 5 Ashbinmen.
- 1 Salvage Baler—Full time.
- 1 Driver.
- 1 Tractor Driver—Part time.

Additional labour has been engaged from time to time on salvage collection and baling.

No serious labour difficulties have been met with in the past year, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a weekly collection without increasing the cost of collection. The



district is growing rapidly and so far as refuse collection is concerned every new property consists of a drive with a long walk to collect a bin—the time taken to empty bins on new properties is almost treble that of terrace-type dwellings. There is an increase in the collection of salvage especially as most food products are now packed in cartons which return as salvage and this again increases the collector's duties.

The bonus scheme for the men continued. All waste paper was sent to Thames Board Mills Ltd., under contract. Loose tins continued to be baled and just over 8 tons were sold during the year.

The total income during the year from the sale of salvage was £1,299.

The tonnage salvaged was as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	135 ...	19 ...	1 ...	26
Rags .....	12 ...	19 ...	2 ...	0
Cast Iron, Scrap Metal, etc. ....	4 ...	16 ...	3 ...	0
Baled Tins .....	8 ...	0 ...	1 ...	0
	<hr/> 161 <hr/>	<hr/> 15 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 26 <hr/>

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £5,936, equal to a 2/2½d. rate.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Visits were made to premises where foodstuffs were handled or sold.

The number of visits made to food premises during the year, including the slaughterhouse, was 132.

Some minor improvements have been made to food premises, most of which were carried out as a result of informal action. This work is proceeding. Follow-up visits have been made.

The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

4lbs. Tinned Ham, 12lbs. Corned Beef.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the district. All meat is inspected and the premises are satisfactory. The owners of this slaughterhouse have been most co-operative and improvements are being made from time to time.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	243	—	2	649	263
Number inspected .....	243	—	2	649	263
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	34	—	—	3	1
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	13.99	—	—	0.46	0.38
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	2	—	—	—	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	0.82	—	—	—	0.38
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat condemned (including offal) was 507lbs.

Milk supply and distribution—There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to the surrounding districts. The supervision of this plant is done by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered distributors is as follows:—

Dairies in the district .....	8
Shops in the district other than dairies .....	5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only “specially designated” milk (that is, pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.

Ice Cream—There was one registration for the manufacture of ice cream. The premises have been inspected and always found to be well run and maintained. Thirty-one dealers are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. The general standard of vehicles and equipment is high. No complaints were received in regard to ice cream.

Made-up Foods, Potted Meats, etc.—Four premises are registered to manufacture made-up meat products. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Food sampling by the County Council—Thirty-six samples were taken by County Inspectors during the year, comprising:—

33 Milk (2 of which were Channel Islands Milk), 1 Saccharin tablet, 1 Seidlitz Powder B.P.C., 1 Glycerine and Thymol Pastille.

All samples proved to be genuine.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

One visit was made in connection with the Shops Act.



## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### (1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
<b>Factories</b> with mechanical power .....	41	48	1	—
<b>Factories</b> without mechanical power .....	—	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
Total .....	41	48	1	—

### (2) DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .....	1	1	1	—
Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .....	—	—	—	—
Total .....	1	1	1	—

## RAG-FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act. No samples were taken. The amount of this material used is very small.



## RODENT CONTROL

Twelve properties infested with rats or mice were treated during the year by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were test baited but no takes were recorded.

## PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 32,500 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts, and no new premises were licensed.

## HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books .....	1,503
Number of new houses erected during the year:	
(a) By the Local Authority .....	0
(b) By other bodies or persons .....	39
Number of houses demolished during the year ...	0
Number of houses closed during the year .....	0
Number of persons displaced .....	0
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year .....	3
Number of houses in which improvement works were completed during the year .....	6
Number of standard grant applications received during the year .....	19
Number of houses at which standard grant works were completed during the year .....	16

Housing Conditions—The general housing conditions are fair, most houses being small to medium size two and three bedroom types. There is quite a proportion of older property in the district suitable for improvement and owners are encouraged to apply for improvement grants. The results of these are excellent and have made first-class houses. It is felt that more advantage could be taken of these grants to bring property up to a reasonable standard.

Due to considerable activity in private building there is no real shortage of houses in the district but the high prices and particularly the high interest rates now prevailing are precluding persons of limited means from acquiring these. The Council did not build any houses in 1961 nor are any planned for general need in 1962. Whilst the waiting list for Council houses may not be

large in itself it is in relation to vacancies occurring. The Council is negotiating for the purchase of land on which to build old persons' bungalows.

Kirkham is fast becoming a dormitory town between neighbours Blackpool and Preston, probably accounted for by the two large industrial concerns nearby. Indications are that within the next few years there will be no building land available for private dwellings.

The Council have continued to stand as guarantors for persons buying properties through Building Societies, but during the year suspended advances to prospective buyers due to the high rates of interest prevailing.

### GENERAL

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and cleansing of highways, supervision of new buildings, street lighting, parks, baths and recreation grounds. The Department will endeavour to proceed with the making-up of all unmade streets as soon as the Council authorise same.

A growing problem in the Department is that of Housing Management, there being a total of almost 300 houses to be managed. As the houses become older the repairs must increase and inspections, orders, accounts, etc., for these houses are responsible for occupying an ever increasing amount of my staff's time.

### STAFF

My thanks are expressed for the efficient service rendered by my staff—Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk of the Department, and Mr. B. D. Rogerson who was Pupil Public Health Inspector until he left in September. Mr. Rogerson had been with the Council for a little over four years and after successfully completing his examinations has now taken up a position as a qualified Public Health Inspector. To other members of the Staff, the Foremen and all Workmen, go my thanks for their excellent and willing co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. HALL.



